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# Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14 FRB-02 NEA-11 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SWF-02 AF-10 ARA-16 DRC-01 /262 W
---------- 032909
P R 142352Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2736
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
ALL AMCONSULS IN CANADA

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STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

PASS USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, CA
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SUBJECT: ENERGY: CANADIAN PRESS REACTION TO WASHINGTON ENERGY

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CONFERENCE.

1. BOTH TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL AND MONTREAL GAZETTE OF FEBRUARY 14 CARRIED EDITORIALS ON WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIAL, "LOVING THY NEIGHBOR" NOTED THAT CANADIAN NATIONAL CONSCIENCE WAS ABOUT AS ADJUSTABLE AS CONSCIENCE OF MOST INDIVIDUAL CANADIANS AND THAT WHILE "THERE IS ROOM IN THE HEAD FOR LOFTY THOUGHTS ABOUT DOING UNTO OTHERS AS WE WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO US... THE HANDS ARE GETTING READY FOR A DIP INTO THE NEIGHBORS' POCKETS." BY WAY OF EXAMPLE OF THIS OBSERVATION, EDITORIAL DESCRIBES FINANCE MINISTER TURNER'S ROLE AT CONFERENCE "TO CALL UPON ALL WESTERN INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO WORK IN CONCERT, HELPING EACH OTHER TO PRESERVE THE WORLD ECONOMY AND WARD OFF DEPRESSION", WHILE ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD INTRODUCED THE PRACTICAL NOTE AND HAD "ONE FOOT IN THE HIGH WATERS, WHILE A TOE PROBED CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THE MURKY DEPTHS." THIS REFERENCE TO MACDONALD WAS OCCASIONED BY HIS STATEMENT THAT "IF THERE IS A BREAKDOWN IN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION, IF WE REALLY DO ARRIVE AT A STALEMATE IN THESE MATTERS, THEN WE'D OF COURSE HAVE TO KEEP OPEN FOR OURSELVES THE OPTION OF MAKING CERTAIN INTER-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS THAT OUR TRADITIONAL SUPPLIERS WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY US." EDITORIAL THEN NOTES THAT "JUST BY WAY OF PRECAUTION MR. MACDONALD, DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO IRAN, LEBANON, AND SAUDI ARABIA, WILL SPEND A SMALL AMOUNT OF HIS TIME EXPLORING THE POSSIB?ILITIES OF SOME BILATERAL OIL DEALS THOUGH, NATURALLY, CANADA STILL STANDS WITH 12 OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES IN PROPOSING TO SEEK A MULTILATERAL MEETING WITH ARAB AND OTHER OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO SOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL OIL CRISIS".

2. MONTREAL GAZETTE EDITORIAL, "OFF THE GROUND -- JUST", SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS PERHAPS BEST THAT CONFERENCE ACHIEVEMENT "WAS ONLY PROCEDURAL" BECAUSE AN AGREEMENT ON POLICY AIMS WOULD HAVE GIVEN WEIGHT TO CHARGES OF GANG-UP AND BULLYING." "IN ANY CASE, FRANCE'S TRADITIONAL DEVIL-TAKE-THE-HINDMOST STYLE OF DIPLOMACY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT POLICY GOALS AND CAME CLOSE TO PREVENTING ACHIEVEMENT OF EVEN THE PROCEDURAL OBJECTIVE - THAT IS, THE MEETING WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THE QUAI D'ORSAY'S BRAND OF CYNICAL REALISM WAS IN FULL FLOWER AS FRANCE ENDORSED CURRENT ARAB
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OIL PRICING, AS THOUGH THESE COUNTRIES OF INHERENTLY LOW PRODUCTION COSTS NEEDED A HIGHER PRICE THAN THAT JUDGED SUFFICIENT TO TURN A PRETTY PROFIT IN HIGH COST CANADA.

"THE FRENCH CAN HAVE BEEN BARELY ABLE TO HIDE THEIR SNICKERS AS THEY PROPOSED HANDING THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL OIL COOPERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AN ORGANIZATION TOWARD WHICH FRANCE HAS BEEN NOTABLY CONTEMPTUOUS.

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FRANCE'S LATER INITIATIVE FAVORING THE ORGANIZATION FOR
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT WAS SCARCELY MORE
CREDIBLE, THE OECD BEING A GREAT OUTFIT FOR RESEARCH AND
CONSULTATION BUT LOW ON OPERATIONAL CAPACITY." IN CONCLUSION,
EDITORIAL STATES THAT IN PREPARATION FOR CONSUMERS-PRODUCERS
MEETING MOVEMENT TOWARD COMMODITY AGREEMENTS SHOULD RECEIVE
NEW IMPETUS WITH OBJECTIVE OF WORLD PRICE STABILIZATION IN
OIL AND OTHER PRODUCTS, AND SUGGESTS THAT FEBRUARY 12 OTTAWA
SPEECH OF MAURICE STRONG (CANADIAN WHO IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM) COULD SERVE AS A TEXT FOR
PARTICIPANTS IN FURTHER ENERGY MEETINGS, "WITH OR WITHOUT
FRANCE". (STRONG WARNED CANADA AND OTHER NATIONS AGAINST
DANGERS OF "NARROW AND DEFENSIVE NATIONALISM" IN ATTACKING
WORLD RESOURCE PROBLEMS, SUGGESTING THAT LOW-KEY VIEW IS
FURFACING WHICH QUESTIONS SOVEREIGH RIGHTS OF COUNTRIES TO
THEIR OWN RESOURCES. HE STATED THAT BECAUSE CANADA IS REASONABLY
SELFSUFFICIENT, IT COULD BECOME "A GHETTO OF PRIVILEGE AND PLENTY
IN A WORLD OF GROWING SCARCITY AND NEED", A SITUATION THAT WOULD
BE MORALLY REPUGNANT AND "THE HEIGHT OF POLITICAL FOLLY AND
SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS. CANADA FIRST CANNOT MEAN CANADA ONLY",
HE SAID.)

3. GEOFFREY STEVENS, IN GLOBE AND MAIL STORY ALSO OF FEBRUARY
14, WRITES THAT ENERGY CONFERENCE "IF IT IS REMEMBERED AT
ALL IN FUTURE YEARS", WILL BE REMEMBERED PRIMARILY FOR ITS
DIFFERENCES. HE STATES THAT WHILE DIFFERENCES WERE REAL
AND DEEP ENOUGH TO LEAD SOME TO QUESTION WHETHER THE EC AND/OR
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WOULD SURVIVE", ONE SUSPECTS THAT BOTH
WILL MUDDLE THROUGH. "ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE INCORPORATED IN
KISSINGER'S SEVEN PRINCIPLES (ALTHOUGH, STEVENS NOTES, THE
U.S. NEVER GOT OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITS DETAILED MATERIAL
IN SUPPORT OF THEM), IT WAS SO CAUTIOUSLY WORDED AS TO LEAVE
THE 13 COUNTRIES FREE TO DEAL WITH ENERGY PROBLEMS IN ALMOST
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ANY WAY THEY MIGHT CHOOSE. THE DOCUMENT WAS FURTHER WEAKENED
BECAUSE FRANCE SPECIFICALLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT SOME OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT POINTS - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT; COOPERATION ON POLICIES TO COMBAT THE
ECONOMIC AND MONETARY CONSEQUENCES OF THE ENERGY CRISIS; AND
ADOPTION OF MACHINERY TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE". ON MATTER OF FRENCH ROLE AT CONFERENCE, STEVENS
WRITES THAT, "THE CONFERENCE SERVED TO REMIND EVERYONE OF
HOW TIRESOME, HOW UTTERLY TIRESOME, FRANCE IS WHEN SHE GRINDS
HER GAULLIST AXE ON THE INTENATIONAL STAGE. HER FOREIGN MINISTER,
MICHEL JOBERT, HAD A POINT (OF SORTS) WHEN
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